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## The Impact of Rapid Growth of Urbanization and Urbanism in Eastern Ethiopia

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### Abstract

*The intention of this paper is to investigate the impact of the rapid growth of urbanization and urbanism in Eastern Ethiopia, challenges and prospects. The researcher used qualitative research approaches and primary and secondary data collection methods that largely include observations, focus group discussions, interviews. These are the principal methods to look into the etic view of the community under investigation. The paper employs only a qualitative research method to examine the scenario of the impact of rapid urban expansion and challenges and prospects in this study. The empirical studies indicated that the urbanization process causes the dismantling of the immediate rural community and the cause of land grabbing from these societies. Therefore, this study utilizes to study the challenges and prospects of urbanization on the surrounding community immediately adjacent to urban areas. A number of studies indicated that urbanization causes both challenges and prospects in the area where the urbanization process is taking place. Nevertheless, the challenges and prospects of the urbanization on immediate to adjacent communities living in trouble and irritating for their future life. The standard this research finding disclosed that the living condition of the poor urban dwellers and community adjacent to urban areas who were not secured and stable. Even though they got some opportunities such as access to schooling social services markets and access to some important materials for survival. Still, these communities are challenged by the alarming rate growth urbanization that evoked impacts on the overall living patterns of these communities.*

### Introduction

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa next to Nigeria with a population estimated at 99.39 million in 2015 from which 19.4% live in urban and peri-urban areas (CSA, 2016). Between 2007 and 2015 nineteen million people were added to the population. The country is one of the lowest urban dwellers residence compared to Sub - Saharan standards in percentage of total population residing in cities and urban settings<sup>1</sup>, despite indications display a rapid rate of urbanization in the pace at which people are relocating to urban centers. Urban Ethiopia is increasing not only in population but also in desertification of big cities and land expansion by including nearby peri-urban areas or by converting rural surrounding to urban settings.

According to the projection made by CSA, the youth population within the age bracket of 15-29 years is expected to grow from the 5.4 million (CSA, 2015) to 13.1 million by 2037. In terms of households, there will be close to 6.5 million additional households for which housing units will be required in addition to current backlogs in housing supply. The projection on future requirement of housing made based on the projected population size obtained from the National Urban Development Spatial Planning study indicates that the additional number of housing units that would be needed until 2025 and 2035 would be close to 3.9 and 9.8 million, respectively. For demand to Social Services.

The additional urban population has implications on availability and access to social services like education and health. Failure to meet these requirements would undoubtedly result in unemployment, housing shortage and congestion, proliferation of informal settlements, environmental degradation, and inadequate basic social services such as education and health.

In line with broad historical trends elsewhere, rural to urban migration in developing countries constitutes the single most important cause of the rapid growth of the urban population migration from rural as population and in exceptional causes, as much as 75% in sub-Saharan Africa (Todaro, 2000). Although rural to urban migration due to poverty in rural areas results from low agricultural productivity and due to rural areas are relatively, under served in terms of physical financial and economic infrastructure (Todaro, 2000).

Urbanization occurs as individually, commercial, social and governmental efforts reduce time and expense in commuting and transportation and improve opportunities for jobs, education, housing and transportation. Cities are known to be place where money, services, wealth and opportunities are centralized (Méndez, 2007). Many rural inhabitants come to the city for the reasons for seeking for turns of social mobility, Businesses, which provides jobs and exchange of capital, are more concentrated in urban areas (Todaro, 2000).

Although the process of urbanization happens in both developed countries and least developed countries the fastest growing cities in the world are in least developed countries. The reasons for the growth of urban areas include lack of and poor employment opportunities in the country side over population and poor crop yields are all push factors why people leave the country side (Adu Ampom, 2008). Better paid jobs in the cities an expected higher standard of living and more reliable food are an others factors why people are attracted to the city. A nations urban population grow from natural increase birth minus deaths, net rural to urban migration and reclassification as what was previously a rural settlement becomes classified as urban areas a urban settlements boundaries are expanded (BBC, 2014).

## Methodology

This research is designed in having the conceptual building within which research was conducted; it constitutes the content for the collection, and analysis of data. The design also includes a description of what the researcher will do from writing the suggestion and its operational implications to the final analysis of data (Kothari, 2004). Thus, this research was designed in away that stands for advance planning of the methods to be adopted for collecting the relevant data and the techniques to be use in its analysis, keeping in view with the objective of the research and the availability of time and money.

Therefore, the researcher used the qualitative data types to analyze the finding of this research, so, as to make the more reliable, keep/secure the validity and reliability of the study and increase the depth and of my study qualitative data type was used and qualitative type data analysis has been used. This study had been employed only qualitative method of data analysis in order to be comprehensive enough to look into the scenario of the research. Qualitative method of data analysis is exceptionally helpful in identifying contradictory behaviors, beliefs, opinions, emotions and relationships of individuals. The researcher choice of qualitative type of research was because it will to go further to assess scholar factors of urban expansion.

Both Primary and secondary source of data were used by the researcher to investigate the issue of called the impact of rapid expansion and growth of urbanization and urbanism in Eastern Ethiopia. The primary sources were obtained from the field through interview, focus group discussion and field observation by the researcher. Secondary sources of data were data obtained from published and unpublished sources. These secondary sources of data were used to relate and triangulate the research problem with the past situations on real ground which was obtained from primary sources of data, that were acquired from the field (Wolcott, 2009).

Primary and secondary data types were used to realize this paper. The primary data's were data's collected from field through different techniques of data collection such as interview, field observation, and focus group discussion. The data obtained from interview, focus group discussion and from field observation were triangulated in line with the importance of secondary sources. Thus, data's collected from the field were directly encoded to data bases and correlate with secondary data types were also used from different written sources.

Descriptive researches can roughly be use interview, focus group discussion and observation in the work place (Kusenbach, 2003). In order to collect the qualitative data, the researcher has applied an primary data collection methods which include interview, focus group discussion and field observation as data collection.

The researcher used qualitative data from the field such as interview, focus group discussion, field observation and other secondary sources that was analyzed in the form to essay. The data that was collected from sample of respondents, frequently analyzed. The qualitative data was analysis was used by organizing, summarizing and interpreting the data collected qualitatively sources. In other words, qualitative data was analyzed descriptively in the form of narration.

The interviews and the Focus Group Discussion data collection were conducted in Amharic language. This methods are followed by the tape recording. Interview, Focus Group Discussion and field observation were then transcribed and translated into English. The piece of writing were then organized and analyzed thematically. Therefore, the researcher employed the qualitative method of data analysis to write this important ethnographic research.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **The Environmental Effect of Urban of growth**

The phenomena of urban environmental degradation has become a great growing concern in developing nations like Ethiopia. Relative frequency of this phenomena as well as business concern about it has increased over the years. In urban environment land is overtaken when industrial and constructions are taken place in urban areas. These developed resulting in

greater production and holding communities are overran. The inhospitable surface in urban area creates runoff during rain seasons due to environmental destruction.

The impact of urban expansion in cities of Dire Dawa, Harar and Jijiga results in scarcity of ground water, more paved the way the surface for less in filtration for ground water. Areas that depends on ground water as surface like cities of Dire Dawa and Jiiga for public water supply are facing a water crises as the quality becomes depleted. Urban expansion is accompanied by environmental depletion which waste dumping on the land. Urban waste are relay on open areas, open drains in the road side and holes in the ground as regular means of waste administration particularly in the expansion area. This exposes the dwellers to sanitation related diseases and air pollution. In addition, environmental resources such as clean air and water, and sometimes peace and quietly access to the country side and recreational facilities are affected by environmental values that rural farming community loss due to urban expansion.

### **Economic Impacts of Urban growth and Expansion**

The majority of land holding system in Eastern Ethiopia is a communal land holding system. Thus, the expansion of urban physical process has a great impact on economic status which they refers to the economic competence of the urban community. It is obvious that the majority of the urban community in Eastern Ethiopia engage urban pattern way of life. This life style and economic ability of the urban dwellers in Eastern Ethiopia inevitably impacted as the community come across new lifestyle in urban setting. The urban dwelling community members that live near to the urban setting have been land dispossessed from their original setting that more likely to expose to economic crisis.

Earlier the community used to produce their material needs for their daily consumption. As a result of urban growth and expansion they could minimize their living cost. But the land dispossession postulate the household's livelihood pattern from production to consumption pattern which leads to the cause more economic impoverishment. Furthermore, the inadequate compensation received by the communities adjacent to urban areas run out without brought significant livelihood. These community who are adjacent to Urban centers have been land dispossessed likely to be economically poverty-stricken. The main factor responsible for this economic damage is land dispossession. The land plays crucial role in economic well being of the community. It is source of many assets and treasures. This exhibit that the economic status of the community become degraded as extent of urbanization increases.

This implies urbanization harms the economic status of the community adjacent to urban areas and results in economical degradation of community. Unless the condition intervened, food security is more likely to happening. Thus, uncontrolled urbanization process deserves action to be taken so as to mitigate its challenges thereby promoting sustainable development of urban and its surrounding. This leads to economic impoverishment.

### **Urban Land Grabbing caused Land holding Insecurity**

Urban land grabbing and land holding insecurity for the community adjacent to urban areas are communal that leads to irritate their economic foundation. Land grabbing is common for the expansion of urban centers in Eastern Ethiopia. The livelihood of the communities adjacent to urban areas and those who were included as urban dwellers is based on land. Their livelihood is totally dependent on the land which is the main source of livelihood of these community.

Land alienation for these communities weakened their total livelihood system impoverished them which may cause the community migration as a whole. This further signaled that as the number of the poor community rises in urban areas and it may result in a massive poverty. This is a serious fate particularly for the community adjacent to urban areas their land was grabbed by the governance authorities and urban dwellers. Those who fully lost their land to urban areas and displaced people are the most suffering community from serious poverty. It should be expected that the majority of these communities were impoverished due to this land lost to Urban areas because of urban areas expansion.

On the other hand, these communities who lost part of their land or their land as a whole are more vulnerable to poverty or totally impoverished. These communities become urban dwellers, those who cannot feed themselves and looking for another option to feed their family too. These communities who totally lost their land or the communities who partially lost their land lead to serious economic crisis. These community members who live adjacent to urban areas have no opportunity to realize sustainable economic development and engage economic well being.

In addition, one family consensual that there is land grabbing on our forefather land by the government authorities that took two-third of our land which seems impoverish the whole family. This land grabbing extent impressive that land vulnerability inequality owing to these communities geographically adjacent to urban centers. The land adjacent to urban setting or more strategic is more vulnerable to grabbing and overtaking.

The fundamental issue that contributed for this sparkling problem is insecurity of land holding because the community lost sense of land possession and considered land grabbing as governing bodies backing the process. Impotence emanated from the community that the feeling of despondency and alienation. This indicated that land grabbing and land dispossession are outcomes of urbanization that create problems against economic well being for the community adjacent to urban centers.

Furthermore, the low and inadequate compensation aggravates the economic livelihood impoverishment of the farmers adjacent to urban centers. Land use rights to individuals and community as a whole become the effect for the community who holds land in common transferred from forefathers. Land is also leased out through negotiated locations and prices, or is being assigned by the government for selected projects. Land can be acquired either by distribution of government land, communal land, other unoccupied land and land with no inheritor, redistribution, settlement programme, donation or inheritance which seems grabbing. In addition to that a adjacent urban landholder who has a holding certificate can rent/lease the land to any person.

### **Social challenges of Urbanization**

The noncommittal quantity in material needs for the urban population caused the most dramatic situation in the community of urban areas and adjacent community to the urban area. The social challenge caused by the expansion of urbanization driven the situation in to the worst condition. Social challenges include the departure from family in search for livelihood in urban settings that caused poverty in areas where old people remained. The poor's in least condition caused due to urban expansion is the social crises developed due to urbanized communities, the blood tie remained unbroken but living for themselves begin. The greater impact of the rapid growth

of urban areas leads to the rapid growth of urban population now live in including small towns of eastern Ethiopia, which has been as bringing up grounds of urban population, for social problems such as crime, drug, addition alcoholism, poverty and unemployment. The growing social event for facilities in urban areas which outcome in several negative affects many people mainly urban dwellers who have move to cities and small towns in search of a better life and occupational opportunities and deep a casual laborers this lead to menacing problems of urban growth slum.

### **Rural-Urban Migration**

The major dynamics factor for urban rapid growth is migration from rural areas to urban centers. Migration is reasoned as leading factor to urban growth in Eastern Ethiopia in particular and in Ethiopia in general. It has fundamental contribution to the urban population increase who leads the worst poverty and doing the leading crimes in the country. The rural population migration in Eastern Ethiopian to urban centers has been the major disadvantage for the decrease in poverty. Eastern Ethiopian Cities and small towns disclosed that magnitude of migrants in urban centers forceful increased.

The magnitude of migrants in to the urban areas which was dramatic in search of livelihood for daily consummation made the situation in town and cities to worst. The rural migrants were to urban areas was challenging nowadays in developing countries like Ethiopia which increasingly impoverishment the community in urban areas as whole. Thus, the general level of rural-urban migration was so immense when compared to the developed nations of the world. In Eastern Ethiopia cash crops are growing like Khat and Coffee which make the land only for this crops to grow. Thus, this include that the working labour on farm land become shortage labour due to migrantations coming from surrounding rural areas in search for better life in urban centers. They look for for better employment opportunities in urban areas and search for better basic social services in urban areas.

Rural-urban migrantation are great challenges to urban areas that to be thought to be the environmental stress or greatest concern for the community in urban areas. Migration is considered as providing a framework against the detrimental economic express on worst living condition of urban communities. The negative drawback of rural-urban migration has a great impacts on subsistence households, as notable causes of permanent migration. Migrant employed as it allows people to escape livelihoods which depend on the availability of resource but is also a strategy for managing drought.

### **Population Increment in Urban Centers**

The rapid growth and expansion of urbanization leads to the increment of urban population in Eastern Ethiopia. The communities whose land was overtaken partially and totally become urban dwellers. Those who lost resources including land, labour and capital were migrated to urban centers. The neighborhood to urban centers left them no choice except for living in urban centers or inclusion to urban areas.

The increment of urban dwellers in Eastern Ethiopia leads the community to sever poverty in search of daily livelihood. For those who lost their land totally, urban area living become complicated, no means of survival, no urban area housing and no means of health care. Population increase in urban areas increase impoverishment, the total loss of livelihood no

more efficient in life, high density construction and only can prosper the urban population in terms of job opportunities, market facilities and better living standard. Urbanization is not well managed in Ethiopia generally and in Eastern Ethiopia particularly. If it is not managed well, population bring up new pressure in precondition of basic urban service needs which is not financially and technically easily attainable in urban centers of the country. Population increment in urban population would necessitate investment on socio-economic development to address the ever-increasing demand for jobs, housing and social services.

### **Urban Poverty**

Poverty is a complex and multi-dimensional physical process. Hence, urban poverty particular the need for a secure and sufficient income to provide for the maintenance of a household: food, clothing, shelter, health, education and development of each of its members. Ethiopia is strongly associated with poverty and unemployment in which one third urban households lived with an jobless.

Poverty increase with the increase of urbanization in its large cities of the country, and other higher cities. Poverty in urban centers is becoming an increasingly serious challenge to development and may lag countries policy of development in the near future. The increase in urban population growth, parallel to loss of permanent job opportunity and income making become difficult for majority of urban dwellers that make them to buy food and lack housing opportunity. The increasing number of population in urban areas without the productivity or jobless may put the country in a crisis. Furthermore the existing high percentage of poverty in urban settings with the rapid expansion of urbanization needs a policy to tackle the on going scenario in the future. Poverty is a great challenge in third world nations including Ethiopia, particularly the Eastern Ethiopian with rapid expansion of urbanization that disposes farmers from agricultural land decrease productivity.

The increase in poverty may lead to the urban setting into chaos like no job access, less health center access, high prices in market areas. Consequential urbanization and urban growth in on agricultural lands adjacent to urban areas would continue to exert upward pressure on food prices. High food prices in urban centers is a challenge to urban poor livelihood as majority of urban dwellers are not able to buy sufficient food from the income they earn. Fast growth urbanization is a great challenge for urban dwellers because it leads society to serious poverty. Urban growth can create disturbance that may result in poverty, unemployment, homelessness, hopelessness, and criminality.

Poverty is a strong challenge that strongly challenges the urban dwellers who are in a situation of unemployment, people with no education, strife for daily labour work in construction. The poor standard of urban dwellers might stress their livelihood and may hinder the economic development of the country that is expected to become the middle-income nation by 2025. Poverty reduction projects have to be mainly concentrated on economical and physical infrastructure development of the country that needs government involvement.

### **Poor Urban Housing Scheme**

The rapid expansion of urbanization in relation with the rapid population growth has been accompanied by challenge on economy growing, social interaction and growth of infrastructure. Fast growth of urbanization leads to poor housing system or left majority of

society homeless and million Ethiopians remain in poor housing scheme or on the threshold of falling into that category of poor housing stage or society without home. This upsurge of poor housing scheme leads the urban centers of Ethiopia in general and Eastern Ethiopia in particular into chaos that contributed to a traditional housing system in turn leads to urban land grabbing.

Nowadays, the majority of the urban dwellers continue to be poor or low-income earners living a hand to mouth life without homes in city district and quarter settlements. The problem of poor urban housing is so discriminating that, over the past two decades, no poor can construct home legally. Thus, the poor adjacent areas continue to find it difficulties to secure adequate shelter. Accordingly, the poor, and even many of the non-poor, tend to either become homeless end up living in squatter settlements and slums. The land belongs to aristocrat governance officers and old aristocrats who owned land by grabbing or dispossessing farmers from adjacent to urban centers.

Urban areas land belongs to state that leases the land to investors, and housing became the question of survival in urban areas since land become state property. New housing blocks or condominium were created on the land abandon by the aristocratic government officers in urban areas and made available to the poor at affordability prices. Over the next decades a half of urban poor's will not addressed by the housing scheme due to the problem of urban poverty. As a result of escalating rural to urban migration, the problem of inadequate low-cost housing for the poor only grow in alarming rate. Thus, the question of housing in Ethiopia particularly in urban areas today is the question of survival that would challenge country's policy of development.

### **Urban Employment**

Urban rapid expansion in response to illegal land grabbing and urban growth and the exchange of services and goods between rural and urban population, which leads to petty type of employment. Employment provide the largest number of people in urban areas for both skilled and unskilled manpower. Urban employment in Ethiopia in general in Eastern Ethiopia in particular for both skilled unskilled man power. Majority of man power involved in sectors of manufacturing, production and construction for urban employment. Urban employment for both skilled and unskilled man power in service sector, a sizeable proportion of the employed work as shop sales persons, petty traders as well as restaurant service workers. Employment composition within the service sector does not much related to innovation and has limited potential to grow and be competitive beyond the domestic market.

Employment in urban centers especially for those who are unskilled is better in involving in service sector, construction sector and production sector. In service sector these group of society (unskilled man power) involved as daily labour, and petty works on the street. In production sector these unskilled man power involved bread bakery, beer brewery and beverage companies. In construction sector the involved as daily labour. Urban employment in eastern cities and towns of Ethiopia become a crucial due to migrants from rural and urban centers seeking for better job opportunities. The private sector has a capacity of contributing in creating jobs towards construction with their primary objective of creating for the urban employment.



The increase in contribution of job creation, their role in launching linkages in the value chain between agriculture and industry has made strategic for the transformation process. Urban employment provides the livelihood of many urban residents affordable goods and services for the poor. Employment or job opportunities refers to the availability of alternative livelihood strategies. The job opportunity doesn't become more available as extent of urbanization increases as imagined. In other words, despite the fact that the extent of urbanization increases, the job opportunity is not significantly changed. The community faced the problem of adaptation with the new livelihood strategies. The educated and skilled segment of the community get urbanization process as an opportunity whereas those who lack modern education and technical skill get marginalized. The job opportunities in the study area requires skilled human power. The industries in the area employ non-local labour who are eligible for the industries requirements. Nevertheless, the industries agreed to create job opportunities for the local community antecedent to starting their investment, they failed to do so due to technical problems that lack of skilled manpower. The skill development need to be given as intervention program so as to mitigate this barriers.

### **Prospect Market Access**

Urban community's likelihood refers to easy access market that may comes from the of getting and using market at short distance. Urban community market access means simply getting a simple affordable goods with low prices. Thus, urbanization and urban expansion brings equal market access and its possible opportunities. Moreover, one strong opportunity of the communities in urban centers due the rapid expansion of urbanization is market access.

Simple households who have access to market can get their daily subsistence which indicates that community closer to the urban center have more likely access to market than rural areas. The community living in urban centers have a great opportunity of getting simple foods when compared with people of rural areas who do have less access to the market as they are far from the urban center. Market access at the local area also support them by availing technologies that boost their several economic problems. My most of the key informants mentioned that many fully land dispossessed households are working in the factory being daily laborers, in construction, in production have easy access for market to afford easily edible foods.

Urban expansion and urbanization increases the market access also increases especially for those who can earn the daily subsistence. Lack of market access makes urban poor to suffer from negative impacts of urbanization. More there is fair market that matches their capacity, it will be difficult for them to get market access due to unfair competition between economically powerful elites and massive poor segments of the community. The large extent of urbanization process increases opportunity for poor to access for their daily consumption, which provides new job opportunities also make poor for another opportunity. Access to job opportunities easy access to market for easily accessible and simple foods.

### **Schooling/Education Accesses**

Another important opportunity of urban expansion and growth of urban centers is a simple access to education or schooling. Urban dwellers have a great access to education especially to government schools. Urban centers can also serve as a stepping-stone or an end for rural residents seeking opportunities outside of the agricultural sector by absorbing some of the

agricultural labour. These communities children's have a great opportunity to education. Urban centers with good infrastructure initiates poor communities to look after their children. These communities understand that the only key for development is education, began sending their children to schools. Urban centers contribution to education in developing nations like Ethiopia is crucial, that makes societies to understand the upcoming situation or the scenario now they in now. A simple linkage to education leads the individual, to rush his/her family for education as a means to escape from impoverishment. Urban expansion and urbanization made a great access for poor children's to schooling. And nowadays communities in urban centers understand that education is the only means of survival in urban settings.

### **Other basic Social Services Access**

Urbanization has also another opportunities which is accompanied by other important facilities in urban centers which include electricity, clean water and telephone. These social services are a key in urban centers than in rural areas in countries like Ethiopia. Access to basic services and infrastructures including transportation facilities are the other type of opportunities for urban dwellers. Public transport facilities are more important for urban communities especially for urban poor who can not afford private transport facilities. This has been connecting rural agriculturalist in terms of labour mobility and easing product transport. These social services are basic in urban centers for those who are structural for those who are involved in house construction are currently changing living standard of the population of in many areas. Urban centers plays important and immediate role accessing basic social services than rural areas and more reachable places and close intermediates for poor societies who are urbanized. Urban location value to access easily for industrial products and goods is important to demonstrate urban functions much better than fully urbanized places. Urban centers are more important for easily access of urban poor even though everything is tough to afford in urban areas.

### **Conclusion**

Majority of the people are dispossessed of their asset (the land) due to the strong expansion of urbanization process inflected the living of several adjacent communities to loose their land. The community living adjacent to urban centers becomes a victim of land grabbing and resulted in dependent on both for impulse and for consumption. Appalling increasing in the expansion of urbanization and urban-ism left communities income has been being diminished they can not now purchase water and energy sources as it they adopt supply then in past. These economically weakness illiterates, women, children and elderly area suffering the mild-mannered of crises. The unplanned urbanization process are in fact affecting the environment itself can degradation, pollution, deforestation, and destruction of wild animals are clearly exhibited. The current worth scenario is aggravated, further more the overall environmental crises will be inevitable. Urban expansion has an impact on land resources such as loss of agricultural land, causes forest destruction, loss of habitat and decrease in water quantity and quality in the town. Thus the problems related to expansion are partly resulted from the miss management of land and other resources in the inner cities. The physical mobility of market a long with expansion of its size created and continued to create mass eviction and displacement, like of capital conspired with diminishing asset demand the problems of displaced. Therefore, based on the above evidence collected from respondents and discussants the town

residents, it is possible to conclude that rapid expansion of urban growth has an adverse impact on the socio-economic activities in the study area. The urban population growth is impelled by continued migration to urban areas, urban expansions to rural areas, and natural growth based on the existing land. Thus, anticipated new urban settlements around urban centers of the country will also bring additional urban population increase. Discharge of migrants to these places is expected to be high. Migrants to urban areas are attracted by the prospect of securing paid employment and by expectations of improved health care, housing and education. Better in living condition of the urban poor than poor in rural areas which is miserable; they live in better substandard houses with access to sanitary facilities and electricity.

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